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By Hand

Hon. Douglas H. Wilkins
Lawrence Superior Court
43 Appleton Way
Lawrence, MA 01840

Re: Commonwealth v. Degnan

Dear Judge Wilkins:

I write to urge leniency in the sentencing of Leonard Degnan. I practiced law from an office on Essex Street in Lawrence from 1997 until 2012 and have known and worked with Mr. Degnan for over twelve years. I acted as labor and employment counsel to the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District where Mr. Degnan served as a commissioner.

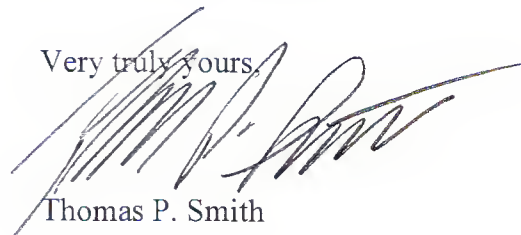
I have great respect for Mr. Degnan. He is honest, hard-working, and committed to his community. In my work with him on labor and employment issues, Mr. Degnan repeatedly demonstrated concern for fairness to all employees. He never rushed to judgment on an important issue. He was a voice for worker safety and fiscal responsibility.

Although Mr. Degnan sometimes has a brusque demeanor, I have seen him extend his hand in friendship towards all. From my observation, he is among the first to assist and console anyone in his wide acquaintance who has suffered a loss or setback.

Public service is a calling for Mr. Degnan. His reputation and integrity are dear to him. I am sure the jury verdict is a very hard blow. Putting aside entirely the merits of the case (which I know you will address elsewhere than at sentencing) and accepting the Commonwealth's case *in toto*, there is no allegation that Mr. Degnan acted for any personal gain in this matter.

In sum, I have seen Mr. Degnan try to put his fellow citizens first and try to improve the life circumstances of the people of Lawrence. He has given long, uncompensated hours in this effort. Please take these qualities into consideration when exercising your discretion in sentencing.

Very truly yours,



Thomas P. Smith